

**From:** [Kathryn McGuire](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Cc:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward7](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Ordinance 21-4  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:44:27 AM

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Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to Ordinance 21-4: Amending the zoning code as recommended in the Definition of Family Zoning Study.

I am not opposed to redefining the definition of family to be more inclusive and to accommodate multi-generational families. However, I am gravely opposed to increasing the number of unrelated persons living in one household.

It is a well known fact that unaffordable rental rates encourage illegal occupancy, and often times people are living in basements without adequate egress and in second and third floor bedrooms with unsafe conditions and inadequate egress. I have witnessed this firsthand in my neighborhood. The neighborhood liaison from the University of St. Thomas, Amy Gage, described this very real problem at the Macalester Groveland Housing and Land Use meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021. According to Ms. Gage, students have confided that illegal occupancy among St. Thomas students is the best kept secret.

It appears that there is already an inadequate process for enforcing the current occupancy and safety thresholds. Increasing the legal number of occupants will exacerbate a problem that is already poorly managed and dangerous. I urge council members to reject the increase in occupancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn McGuire  
2203 Fairmount Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105